

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR IRWIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH JOBERT ABOUT SECRETARY KISSINGER

1. IN INTERVIEW ON RADIO LUXEMBOURG DECEMBER 11 AND APPEARING FIGARO DECEMBER 12, JOBERT HAS GIVEN A PERSONAL APPRAISAL OF SECRETARY KISSINGER. QUAI SPOKESMAN CONTACTED PRESS ATTACHE TODAY TO ADVISE THAT JOBERT IS SENDING COPY OF TEXT OF INTERVIEW TO SECRETARY, VIA EMBASSY PARIS. TEXT TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY PERSONAL NOTE. THOUGH TEXT AND NOTE NOT YET RECEIVED HERE, FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF INTERVIEW AS HEARD ON RADIO. WE HAVE REASON BELIEVE IT NOT AS COMPLETE AS TEXT TO BE SUPPLIED BY JOBERT, BUT WILL SUPPLY ANY SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONS AS SOON AS COMPLETE TEXT ARRIVES. QUAI SPOKESMAN, WITH TRACE OF HUMOR, SAID THAT "GIVEN THE MINISTER'S PERSONALITY", SENDING OF TEXT IN THIS MANNER IS "QUITE UNUSUAL".

BEGIN TEXT. I'VE KNOWN HENRY KISSINGER FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HAVE FRIENDLY CONTACTS WITH HIM, RATHER QUICKLY, WHICH ENABLED US TO GET TO THE HEART OF THINGS IMMEDIATELY, EACH TIME I HAVE SEEN HIM; AND WE'VE NEVER  
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GOTTEN BOGGED DOWN EITHER IN DETAILS OR IN THE RECRIMINATIONS

THAT ONE CAN ALWAYS HAVE WITH RESPECT TO OTHERS. HE IS A MAN WHO, IN MANY RESPECTS, IS ENGAGING IN HIS MANNER OF WORK AND OF CONCEPT. INCONTESTABLY, HE IS A LIVELY MAN, WITH THE TASTE FOR RESPONSIBILITY, A PASSION FOR RESPONSIBILITY, A BIG APPETITE FOR LIVING AND FOR DIRECTING, FOR MOVING AND SHAKING THE LIFE OF NATIONS (AND HE DOES SO RATHER OFTEN) BUT ALSO THE THOUGHTS OF HIS CONTEMPORARIES. IN SAYING THIS, YOU WILL REALIZE THAT I'M DESCRIBING A PERSONALITY. HENRY KISSINGER IS A PERSONALITY. SOME PEOPLE FIND HIM A BIT OVERWHELMING---I'M SURE HE WILL FIND NOTHING PEJORATIVE IN THIS APPRAISAL I AM MAKING OF HIM--BUT THAT IS NORMAL, BECAUSE HE TOUCHES MANY DOMAINS, HE TRIES TO BE PRESENT EVERYWHERE. IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT HE HAS A TASTE FOR VENDETTA, THAT HE IS A PRIMA DONNA OF FOREIGN POLICY, BUT I THINK HE IS RATHER A PRIMA DONNA OF POLICY, PERIOD. ABOVE ALL, HE IS A POLITICAL MAN. OBVIOUSLY, HIS FORMER LIFE LED HIM TO A CERTAIN NUMBER OF HISTORICAL REFLECTIONS, BUT HIS REACTIONS ARE ESSENTIALLY THOSE OF A POLITICAL MAN. HE CALCULATES LIKE A POLITICAL MAN. HE ALSO KNOWS HOW TO COME TO TERMS LIKE A POLITICAL MAN, OR TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE LIKE SUCH A MAN AND NOT TO PURSUE IT WHEN HIS POSITIONS ARE IN DANGER.

3. WHAT I FIND RELAXING IN HIM, EVEN THOUGH THERE IS NOT MUCH THAT IS RELAXING IN HIS EXISTENCE OR HIS STYLE OF LIFE, IS THAT SOMETIMES HE PUTS SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HIS POSITION--- WHICH IS COMMENDABLE OF HIM--AND HE TRIES TO THINK LIKE ANYONE ELSE, EVEN IMAGINING WHAT HIS LIFE WILL BE WHEN HE NO LONGER HAS POWER. THIS IS EMINENTLY ATTRACTIVE, AND PROBABLY GIVES HIM IN HIS CURRENT LIFE A CERTAIN RESERVE OF BALANCE, AND ALSO A CERTAIN SENSE OF HUMOR. BUT IN PERSONALITIES SUCH AS HIS, EVERYTHING IS MIXED TOGETHER---SIMPLICITY AT THE SAME TIME AS THE TASTE FOR BEING ON THE SPOT, THE DETERMINATION TO SUCCEED, THE DESIRE NOT TO BE CAUGHT IN A TRAP.... AND ALL THIS WORKS SO THAT HENRY KISSINGER IS, FINALLY, A MAN WHO LIVES EVERY MINUTE. THERE HE IS, SUCH AS I CAN DESCRIBE HIM: MOBILE, CERTAINLY ENORMOUSLY INTERESTED, CERTAINLY CALCULATING, VERY ORGANIZED, SOMETIMES DETACHED, TOO, AND PROBABLY A DREAMER, AND WITH A GOOD HEART BEYOND ALL QUESTION. IF I WERE TO GO BACK TO MY SCHOOLBOY MEMORIES, AS A FOOTBALL (SOCCER) PLAYER, I WOULD SAY THAT HE PLAYS HIS OWN GAME, BUT SINCE HE BEARS ENORMOUS RESPONSIBILITIES ON HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULDERS HE IS ALSO OBLIGED TO TAKE MANY REACTIONS INTO ACCOUNT. THIS MEANS HE MUST MAKE CERTAIN ADJUSTMENTS IN HIS ACTIONS, AND HE TAKES THIS NECESSITY WITH MUCH HUMOR, JUDGING HIMSELF. THERE IS A SORT OF HAPPY IMPROVISATION IN WHAT HE DOES EVERY DAY, PRECISELY BECAUSE HE WANTS TO TAKE PART IN THE ACTION. IT IS HERE THAT WE RECOGNIZE MEN WHO WANT TO BE PART OF THEIR TIMES AND, I WOULD EVEN SAY, WANT TO BEND THEIR TIMES SOMEWHAT TO THEIR IDEAS. SO IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THESE IDEAS ARE GOOD, THAT

THEY ARE REASONABLE AND NOT OUT OF DATE. I BELIEVE THAT, WITH HENRY KISSINGER, THESE DANGERS DO NOT EXIST. HE IS TOO SENSITIVE TO THE EVENT. HE IS TOO AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE FUTURE AND THE CHANCES FOR CHANGE TO COMMIT THIS KIND OF ERROR. BY CONSEQUENCE, AS A COLLEAGUE, I AM NOT SAYING THAT I VIEW ALL HIS EFFORTS WITH SYMPATHY, BUT HE KNOWS VERY WELL THAT I FOLLOW HIS EFFORTS WITH EXTREME ATTENTION, SINCE I HAVE MY OWN ESTIMATE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING, WHAT IS DEVELOPING, AND ESPECIALLY OF EVERYTHING MR. KISSINGER IS DOING. I BRING TO OUR CONTACTS A FRIENDSHIP QUITE DETACHED FROM ANYTHING I COULD SAY ABOUT HIS DOMINANT QUALITIES AND SOME OF HIS FAULTS. SUCH THAT, THROUGH OUR CONTACTS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, WE HAVE HAD THE BEST RELATIONS, AND FROM THE MOMENT A PROBLEM CAME UP ON A QUESTION CONCERNING HIS COUNTRY AND MINE, WE ALWAYS SUCCEEDED IN EXPLAINING OUR POSITIONS, AND ONCE THE EXPLANATIONS WERE MADE, I MUST SAY THAT EVERYTHING WAS SIMPLER, EVEN WHEN WE WERE NOT IN AGREEMENT. IF SUCH EXPLANATIONS ARE SUFFICIENT, IN MY VIEW IT IS BECAUSE, BEYOND QUESTION, I AM DEALING NOT ONLY WITH A QUITE ESTIMABLE PERSON, BUT WITH SOMEONE EMINENTLY INTELLIGENT. END TEXT.

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